

INFORMATION REPORT

COUNTRY Korea

SUBJECT Situation Along the East Coast of North Korea

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2. Security checks in the area of Machol-lyong were strict. Travelers along the east coast who could show no documents were immediately suspect as espionage agents and were arrested and imprisoned. Any traveler had difficulty securing accommodations for the night, since households taking in strangers were also suspect.
3. On the east coast from Pokchon-ni (128-54, 40-28)(DV 9279) to Wonsan, civilians were suffering from shortages of food, clothing, and medicines. Large numbers were forced to live in caves because so many houses had been destroyed and so many conscripted by the North Korean and Chinese Communist forces. Citizens were subjected to compulsory labor and frequently had to work in areas ten to fifteen miles from home. These demands left farmers little time for planting their own crops; it was rumored that KIM Il-sung had ordered North Korean farmers to plant seeds at night. There were few newspapers in the area because of shortage of newsprint and difficulties of transport, but residents with radios listened to Tokyo broadcasts.
4. It was rumored in Hamhung in mid-March that because of lack of medicines and care, 90 percent of the troops affected with typhus in the Pyonggang (127-18, 38-25) area had been left to die.
5. On the afternoon of 25 March, North Korean troops three miles north of Tongduchon (127-03, 37-56)(GT 2900) were forcing a group of 30 men, 200 women, and 70 children to flee northward with them.

25 YEAR RE-REVIEW

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